

Graduating with the Advanced Studies Diploma



For the **Advanced Studies Diploma**, a student must earn at least **24 standard units of credit** (plus any required locally), which are based on coursework, and **nine verified units of credit**, which are earned by passing the course and its related Standards of Learning test or an approved substitute test.

Students who entered the ninth grade for the first time during the 2000-01 school year are required to earn **TWO verified units of credit in ENGLISH** (one each in reading and writing), **TWO verified units of credit in mathematics**, **TWO verified units of credit in science**, **TWO verified units of credit in history/social science**, and **ONE verified unit of credit in a subject of the STUDENT'S OWN CHOICE**, as follows:

English (two verified units of credit):

These verified units of credit may be earned by passing the end-of-course Standards of Learning (SOL) tests in English/Reading and English/Writing. As with all end-of-course SOL tests, these tests may be retaken if the student does not pass on the first or subsequent attempt.

An acceptable score on approved substitute tests including, among others, the ACT, WorkKeys: Writing, SAT II English, Advanced Placement (AP) English tests, or Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), also may earn verified units of credit in English.

Mathematics, Science, and History/Social Science (six verified units of credit):

- **MATHEMATICS:** Verified units of credit may be earned by passing ANY **two** of the three end-of-course SOL tests in mathematics (Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry).
- **SCIENCE:** Verified units of credit may be earned by passing ANY **two** of the three end-of-course SOL tests in science (Earth Science, Biology, or Chemistry).
- **HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE:** Verified units of credit may be earned by passing ANY **two** of the four end-of-course SOL tests in history/social science (U.S. History, World History I, World History II, or World Geography).

These verified units of credit in mathematics, science, and history/social science **may also** be earned by achieving an acceptable score on any of the approved substitute tests including, among others, ACT, Advanced Placement (AP), College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), or SAT II.

Student's Choice (one verified unit of credit):

This verified unit of credit may be earned by passing any SOL test that is not already being counted for a required verified unit of credit or by passing tests in computer science, technology, or other areas as prescribed by the Board of Education.

Additionally, the Board of Education has approved a large number of state licensing exams in career/technical fields, as well as national industry certification exams, which counts toward verified units of credit.*

** Talk to your guidance counselor for a complete list of all approved substitute exams that may be used to earn verified units of credit. Or go to www.pen.k12.va.us and click of on "Project Graduation."*